

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims to read as indicated:

1. (Amended) A cranial flap clamp for fixing a bone flap to a skull comprising:
a first clamping member having inner and outer surfaces, at least a portion of the inner surface positionable against inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull;
an extension member extending from the first clamping member and configured and dimensioned to fit between the bone flap and the skull;
a second clamping member having inner and outer surfaces and an opening through the inner and outer surfaces for slidably receiving the extension member, with at least a portion of the inner surface positionable against superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull,
wherein movement of at least one of the first and second clamping members from a first position with the second clamping member distal to the first clamping member to a second position with the second clamping member proximal to the first clamping member urges the inner surface of the first clamping member against the inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull and urges the inner surface of the second clamping member against the superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull; and
an integrally formed stop on the extension member provided by mechanical deformation of the extension member at a surgeon selected location along its length and adjacent the outer surface of the second clamping member when the first and second clamping members are in the second position to secure the inner surface of the first clamping member against the inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull and the inner surface of the second clamping member against the superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull.

2. (Amended) A cranial flap clamp for fixing a bone flap to a skull comprising:
a first clamping member having inner and outer surfaces, at least a portion of the inner surface positionable against inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull;
an extension member extending from the first clamping member and configured and dimensioned to fit between the bone flap and the skull;
a second clamping member having inner and outer surfaces and an opening through the inner and outer surfaces for slidably receiving the extension member, with at least a portion of the inner surface positionable against superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull,

wherein movement of at least one of the first and second clamping members from a first position with the second clamping member distal to the first clamping member to a second position with the second clamping member proximal to the first clamping member urges the inner surface of the first clamping member against the inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull and urges the inner surface of the second clamping member against the superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull; and

Q1. a stop provided by mechanical deformation of the extension member at a surgeon selected location along its length and adjacent the outer surface of the second clamping member when the first and second clamping members are in the second position to secure the inner surface of the first clamping member against the inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull and the inner surface of the second clamping member against the superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull;

wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second clamping members are substantially smooth.

Q2. 11. (Amended) A cranial flap clamp for fixing a bone flap to a skull comprising:
a first clamping member having inner and outer surfaces, at least a portion of the inner surface positionable against inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull;
an extension member extending from the first clamping member and configured and dimensioned to fit between the bone flap and the skull;
a second clamping member having inner and outer surfaces and an opening through the inner and outer surfaces for slidably receiving the extension member, with at least a portion of the inner surface positionable against superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull,

wherein movement of at least one of the first and second clamping members from a first position with the second clamping member distal to the first clamping member to a second position with the second clamping member proximal to the first clamping member urges the inner surface of the first clamping member against the inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull and urges the inner surface of the second clamping member against the superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull; and

a stop provided by mechanical deformation of the extension member at a surgeon selected location along its length and adjacent the outer surface of the second clamping member when the first and second clamping members are in the second position to secure the inner surface of the first clamping member against the inferior surfaces of the bone

Q2
flap and skull and the inner surface of the second clamping member against the superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull;

wherein the extension member is a ribbon and the opening of the second clamping member has a rectangular shape.

Please add the following claims:

Q3
27. (New) A cranial flap clamp for fixing a bone flap to a skull comprising:
a first clamping member positionable against inferior surfaces of the bone flap and skull;

an extension member extending from the first clamping member and configured and dimensioned to extend between the bone flap and the skull;

a second clamping member positionable against superior surfaces of the bone flap and skull and comprising an opening in which a portion of the extension member is disposed; and

an integrally formed stop on the extension member for limiting movement of the second clamping member when the first clamping member abuts the inferior surfaces and the second clamping member abuts the superior surfaces.

28. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein surfaces of the first and second clamping members that abut the surfaces of the bone flap and skull are substantially smooth.

29. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the first and second clamping members each further comprise a disk shape.

30. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 29, wherein the second clamping member further comprises a plurality of cutouts oriented radially with respect to the opening.

31. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the extension member comprises a tube and the stop comprises a crimp in the tube.

32. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 31, wherein the opening has a substantially circular shape that is smaller than the crimp.

33. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, further comprising a head disposed on the extension member proximate the first clamping member.

34. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the first clamping member comprises a bore for receiving the extension member.

35. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the opening comprises a countersink and the stop is disposed substantially within the countersink.

36. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the first and second clamping members each comprise an arcuate outer edge.

37. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the extension member comprises a ribbon.

38. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 37, wherein the stop comprises a twisted portion of the ribbon.

39. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the stop comprises a twisted portion of the extension member.

40. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the second clamping member comprises a recessed area proximate the opening.

41. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 40, wherein the stop is received in the recessed area.

42. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 40, wherein the recessed area has a width that increases from a center of the opening, a depth that increases from the center of the opening, and an edge that forms a cutting surface.

43. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the extension member is integral with the first clamping member.

44. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 27, wherein the second clamping member comprises at least one fastener hole for receiving a fastener.

45. (New) A cranial flap clamp for fixing a bone flap to a skull comprising:
a first clamping member;
an extension member extending from the first clamping member;
a second clamping member comprising an opening in which a portion of the extension member is disposed; and
an integrally formed stop on the extension member for limiting movement of the second clamping member on the extension member, the stop being disposed proximate an end of the extension member.

46. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 45, wherein the extension member is integral with the first clamping member.

47. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 45, wherein the stop comprises a crimped portion of the extension member.

48. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 45, wherein the stop comprises a twisted portion of the extension member.

49. (New) The cranial flap clamp of claim 45, wherein opposing surfaces of the first and second clamping members are substantially smooth.

Remarks

Claims 1-16 and 27-49 are pending in this application, including amended claims 1, 2, and 11 and new claims 27-49. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 2-4 and 11-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 2 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form.

As requested in the Office Action, Applicants confirm the election of Group I, claims 1-16 for prosecution in this application. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to protect the other inventions disclosed in the application.